



*Chosen to Lead Washington State's
Juvenile Rehabilitation Program*

Meet **Sekou Shabaka**

“ Washington has
a well-managed
and highly
respected juvenile
rehabilitation
system. ”

SEKOU SHABAKA
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
JUVENILE REHABILITATION
ADMINISTRATION

Sekou Shabaka, who has spent more than 40 years working in juvenile justice and corrections, is the assistant secretary for the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA).

DSHS Secretary Robin Arnold-Williams lured Shabaka out of retirement in December of 2005 to bring his leadership to the Washington State juvenile programs.

“His experience ranges from serving youth through the child welfare system to serving as a top manager for various juvenile justice and adult corrections programs,” said Arnold-Williams. “We are excited to work with Sekou. He brings much experience in serving children and adolescents.”

Noting that the state’s juvenile rehabilitation system is well managed and highly respected, Shabaka said, “It has embraced evidence-based practices in treating young offenders that have helped bring the juvenile crime rate down in Washington.”

Before retiring in 2001 to become a community volunteer and speak professionally on African American and children’s issues, Shabaka served as an associate executive director at the Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth in Canaan, N.Y. Shabaka previously was the deputy director for the Columbia, S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice.

No stranger to Washington, Shabaka served as deputy secretary for the state’s Department of Corrections from 1987 to 1989. He has also worked in Maryland and California.

Shabaka received a B.S. degree in Psychology at Virginia State University in 1962.